

REMARKS

Favorable reconsideration of this application, in light of the following discussion, is respectfully requested.

Claims 3-8 are currently pending. No claims have been amended herewith.

In the outstanding Office Action, Claims 3, 5, and 7 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 6,330,976 to Dymetman et al. (hereinafter “the ‘976 patent”); and Claims 4, 6, and 8 were objected to as being dependent upon a rejected claims, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form.

Claim 3 is directed to an image information management system, comprising: (1) a server apparatus; (2) a client apparatus connected to the server apparatus via a network; and (3) a pen-type information input apparatus. Further, Claim 3 recites that the server apparatus includes (1) a storage part configured to store document information and position identification code management information; (2) a determination part configured to determine whether there is a position identification code assignable to a document to be printed on a paper medium when information on the document and an instruction to perform position identification code printing on the paper medium are received from the client apparatus; and (3) a transmission part configured to transmit the position identification code to the client apparatus when the determination part determines that there is the position identification code assignable to the document.

The ‘976 patent is directed to a system in which automatic action can be obtained through a network using an area of a marking medium having machine readable markings that encode an action or a medium identifier. For example, the ‘976 patent discloses that the action or medium identifier could include a page identifier and a location identifier, with the location identifier also indicating an action that relates to the page’s digital counterpart. Further, as shown in Figures 8 and 9, the ‘976 patent discloses a detection device or pointer

used to read markings on a medium. However, Applicants respectfully submit that the '976 patent fails to disclose a server having a determination part configured to determine whether there is a position identification code assignable to a document to be printed on a paper medium when information on the document and an instruction to perform position identification code printing on the paper medium are received from the client apparatus, as recited in Claim 3. Rather, the '976 patent merely discloses a system in which markings already printed on the medium may be read by an optical pointer.<sup>1</sup> The '976 patent is silent regarding the receiving, by a server from the client apparatus, of an instruction to perform printing, as recited in Claim 3. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully traverse the rejection of Claim 3 as anticipated by the '976 patent.

Independent Claims 5 and 7 recite limitations analogous to the limitations recited in independent Claim 3. Accordingly, for the reasons stated above for the patentability of Claim 3, Applicants respectfully traverse the rejection of Claims 5 and 6 as anticipated by the '976 patent.

Thus, it is respectfully submitted that independent Claims 3, 5, and 7 patentably define over the '976 patent.

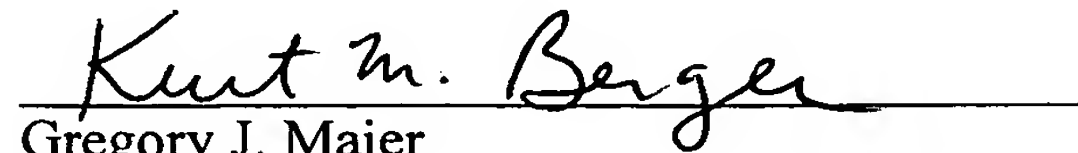
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<sup>1</sup> Applicants note that the Office Action asserts that the claimed determination part is generally disclosed by the '976 patent in columns 16-33. However, Applicants note that several embodiments of the '976 invention are described in the seventeen columns referred to by the Office Action and the Office Action does not indicate with particularity which embodiments read on the claimed determination part. Nevertheless, Applicants submit that none of the embodiments read on the claimed determination part.

Consequently, in view of the present amendment and in light of the above discussion, the outstanding grounds for rejection are believed to have been overcome. The application as amended herewith is believed to be in condition for formal allowance. An early and favorable action to that effect is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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